What is claimed is:

1. A purified ERAB polypeptide.

2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1D (Seq. Id. No. 2) or a variant thereof.

3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide comprises a portion of the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1D (Seq. Id. No. 2) or a portion of a variant thereof.

4. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is human or murine.

5. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises a molecular weight of about 27,000 to 29,000 daltons.

6. An isolated nucleic acid which encodes an ERAB polypeptide.

7. The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein the ERAB polypeptide comprises human ERAB polypeptide.

8. The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 1D (Seq. Id. No. 1) from nucleotide 19 to nucleotide 801 or a variant thereof.

9. The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA, RNA, or a recombinant nucleic acid.

10. A replicable vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 6.

11. The replicable vector of claim 10, wherein the vector is a prokaryotic expression vector, a yeast expression vector, a baculovirus expression vector, a mammalian expression vector, an episomal mammlian expression vector, pKK233-2, pEUK-C1, pREP4, pBlueBacHis A, pYES2, pSE280, or pEBVHis.

12. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 10.

13. The host cell of claim 12, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic cell, a somatic cell, a germ cell, a neuronal cell, a myocyte, a prokaryotic cell, a virus packaging cell, or a stem cell.

14. The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid comprises antisense oriented nucleic acid.

15. A cell comprising a foreign nucleic acid, which nucleic acid comprises at least a portion of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 1D from nucleotide 19 to a nucleotide 801 or a variant thereof.

16. An antibody to the polypeptide of claim 1.

17. The antibody of claim 16, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody, a fragment of an antibody, or a monoclonal antibody.

18. A transgenic non-human mammal whose germ and somatic cells contain and express a nucleic acid molecule encoding human ERAB polypeptide or a biologically active variant thereof, the nucleic acid molecule having been stably introduced into the non-human mammal at the single cell stage or an embryonic stage, and wherein the nucleic acid molecule is linked to a promoter and integrated into the genome of the non-human mammal.

19. The transgenic non-human mammal of claim 18, wherein the animal is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a rat, a swine, a fowl, a dog, or a nonhuman primate.

20. A method for evaluating the ability of an agent to inhibit binding of ERAB polypeptide to amyloid-beta peptide which comprises:

(a) incubating ERAB polypeptide, the agent and amyloid-beta peptide under suitable binding conditions;

(b) determining the amount of amyloid-beta peptide bound to ERAB polypeptide from the incubate of (a); and

(c) comparing the amount of bound amyloid-beta peptide determined in step (b) with an amount of amyloid-beta peptide bound to ERAB polypeptide determined in the absence of the agent, thereby evaluating the ability of the agent to inhibit binding of ERAB polypeptide to amyloid-beta peptide.

21. The method of claim 21, wherein the agent comprises a peptide, a peptidomimetic compound, a nucleic acid, or a small molecule.

22. A pharmacuetical composition which comprises an agent capable of inhibiting an interaction between an amyloid-beta peptide and an ERAB polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the carrier is a diluent, an aerosol, a topical carrier, an aqueous solution, a nonaqueous solution or a solid carrier.

24. A method for treating a neurodegenerative condition in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an agent, capable of inhibiting binding of an ERAB polypeptide to an amyloid-beta peptide, in an amount effective to inhibit such binding and thereby treat the neurodegenerative condition in the subject.

25. The method of claim 25, wherein the neurodegenerative condition comprises Alzheimer's disease, Down's syndrome, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease,

schizophrenia, a demyelinating disease or multiple sclerosis.